

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7380

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 5917

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR CITES FRENCH-SOVIET AGREEMENTS AS
MODEL FOR US-SOVIET ACCORDS

1. SUMMARY. IN A SPEECH MARCH 3, SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO STRESSED THAT SOVIET-FRENCH PRINCIPLES SIGNED DURING BREHZNEV VISIT IN OCTOBER 1971 WERE EXAMPLE FOR SUBSEQUENT SOVIET AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S. THE POINT OF HIS REMARK SEEMED QUITEL CLEARLY TO BLUND FRENCH CHARGES OF US-SOVIET SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, SHOWING THAT IT WAS FRENCH THEMSELVES WHO ORIGINALLY SHOUGHT SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE REVIEW OF FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS TO MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT, AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO POINTED TO SIGNIFICANCE OF BASIC PRINCIPLES SIGNED BY BREHZNEV AND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IN PARIS IN OCTOBER 1971. CHERVONENKO SAID THESE "BECAME A MODEL FOR SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS WITH A SERIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES -- THE U.S., THE FRG AND OTHERS -- AND SERVED AS THE BASIS FOR SEVERAL PROPOSALS DISCUSSED AT THE CSCE."

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3. COMMENT. SEVERAL SOVIET AND LOCAL COMMUNIST SOURCES

HAVE RECENTLY POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH-SOVIET DOCUMENTS SIGNED BOTH IN 1970 AND IN 1971 DURING SUMMIT VISITS WERE IN EFFECT DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARIS AND MOSCOW. THIS FACT IS CITED TO REFUTE ONGOING FRENCH CHARGES OF US-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM AND ESPECIALLY COMPLAINTS OVER AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT US-SOVIET SUMMIT LAST JUNE. WE NOTE FOR EXAMPLE IN RADIO MOSCOW FRENCH BROADCAST OF FEBRUARY 28, COMMENTATOR GRIGORYEV POINTEDLY STATED, "THE PRINCIPLE OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IS NOW FOLLOWED ON A LARGE SCALE NOT ONLY IN USSR/US RELATIONS BUT ALSO IN SOVIET RELATIONS WITH OTHER CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, CHIEFLY WITH FRANCE. SO FAR NO ONE HAS ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION AND FRANCE OF TRYING TO CONSPIRE TO ESTABLISH A CONDOMINIUM TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATION OF OCTOBER 13, 1970 WAS INDEED FIRST OF A SERIES OF SUCH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. A YEAR LATER DURING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO PARIS, FRENCH SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR FRIENDSHIP TREATY. HOWEVER, THEY DID AGREE TO STATEMENT (OR ENONCE) OF PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION. THESE PRINCIPLES AGAIN TRANSCENDED BILATERAL FRAMEWORK. FOR EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH 5 STATED, "WITH VIEW TO ACTIVELY WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD ... POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE DEVELOPED BOTH THROUGH REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS WELL AS THROUGH SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES."

5. DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, OF COURSE, FRENCH WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOVIETS FOR FAILING TO LIVE UP TO THESE AGREEMENTS ON "CONSULTATION." IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT AT TIME WHEN FRENCH ARE TAKING CONSERVATIVE VIEW OF CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS IN NATO, THEY ARE PRESSING SOVIETS ON NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION AND THAT THEY ARE TAKING THIS LINE AT THE SAME TIME THEY CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE US-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM.
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